

501.40201X00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TADOKORO et al

Serial No.: 09/893,577

Filed: June 29, 2001

For: Fabrication Method Of Semiconductor Integrated
Circuit Device

Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: Kin Chen

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 13, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find copies of documents, recently discovered, to be considered during further examination of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

Please note that the enclosed documents include Japanese Patent Laid-open Application No. 2000-173993, and U.S. Patent No. 6,423,242 which corresponds to No. 2000-173993. It is respectfully submitted that this corresponding U.S. Patent No. 6,423,242 provides the necessary concise explanation of No. 2000-173993 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to a first office action on the merits in the above-identified application, but prior to a Final rejection or issuance of a Notice of Allowance, or issuance of any other Office Action closing prosecution on the merits in the above-identified application. For satisfying requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(c), the following Statement is made under 37 CFR 1.97(e):

No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

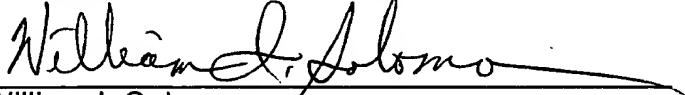
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the documents listed on the enclosed Form. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135

(referencing docket no. 501.40201X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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